

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed May 31, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (US 4,781,645), and rejected claims 37-40 as being unpatentable over Kato. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections based on the amendments to the claims and for the reasons stated hereinbelow.

Claims 36-40, as now amended, are directed to a method of providing a container for containing a floral grouping that includes **providing a floral grouping** and providing a self inflating expandable container for the floral grouping. When the self inflating container is in an expanded condition, a housing of the self inflating container is provided with a substantially open upper end, a sidewall, a substantially closed lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and **a retaining space defined by the substantially closed lower end and the sidewall, wherein the retaining space is configured for containing the floral grouping.** The method also include the step of **disposing at least a portion of the floral grouping in the retaining space** of the self inflating container.

Kato is directed to an inflatable bag comprising two compartments, one containing sodium bicarbonate and the other containing an acidic solution, which, when combined, generate carbon dioxide gas and automatically inflate

the bag. The inflatable bag is used as a toy in that the process of the inflation can be observed visually and can amuse the user both by generating sound and changing its size and appearance as it gradually inflates.

Kato does not teach, disclose or even suggest a method of providing a container for containing a floral grouping by providing a self inflating expandable container for the floral grouping and expanding the self inflating container so that it is provided with **a retaining space defined by a substantially closed lower end and a sidewall of a housing of the container**, and **disposing at least a portion of the floral grouping in the retaining space** of the self inflating container.

The Examiner asserts that Kato teaches "providing a retaining space configured for containing the floral grouping (in that surface of 1 of Fig. 1a is capable of containing a floral grouping by, *inter alia*, having the floral grouping lay on the surface)".

However, Kato does not teach, disclose or even suggest providing an expandable container wherein in the expanded condition, the container is provided with **a retaining space defined by a substantially closed lower end and a sidewall of a housing of the container**, nor does Kato disclose, teach or even suggest **disposing at least a portion of the floral grouping in the retaining space** of such a self inflating container.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Kato does not teach, disclose or even suggest the presently claimed invention, as recited in amended claims 36-40. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claim 36 and the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 37-40.

CONCLUSION

This is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed May 31, 2005. Applicant respectfully submits that each and every rejection of the claims as now amended has been overcome. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 36-40, as now amended, are patentable over the art of record and are in a condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or the remarks contained herein, Applicant's agent would welcome the opportunity to discuss such matters with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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